

Analysis of Locutionary Speech Acts on the Twitter Account @Cursedkidd

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ABSTRACT

This study explores locutionary speech acts on the Twitter account @Cursedkidd using a pragmatic approach and qualitative discourse analysis. Focusing on literal utterances, the research investigates how language is used to convey information and build digital discourse among Indonesian youth. Data were collected from tweets and replies posted between July and December 2024 through observation and note-taking techniques. The analysis employed a thematic categorization of five locutionary speech act types: directives, declaratives, interrogatives, imperatives, and expressives. The findings show that directives (40%) and declaratives (32%) dominate, reflecting a tendency toward assertive yet informal communication. Interrogatives and imperatives each comprise 10%, while expressives account for 8%. Unlike most previous studies that focus on formal or institutional discourse, this research highlights the linguistic creativity and cultural nuances of a youth-oriented, informal Twitter account. Through colloquial expressions, code-switching, and sarcasm, the account demonstrates how locutionary acts operate in dynamic and emotionally layered interactions. The study contributes to the field of pragmatics by offering insights into how literal speech functions in social media discourse and underscores the need to consider socio-cultural context when analyzing communication in digital spaces.

I. Introduction

In the digital age, social media has become an integral part of everyday life, serving as a platform for individuals and groups to interact, share information and build social networks. Twitter is one of the most influential platforms in this regard, known for its unique features such as character limits and the real-time nature of communication. With more than 300 million monthly active users, Twitter is more than just a place to share status or news, but also a public arena where public opinion can be influenced, social discourse shaped, and even collective action mobilized. revealed that social networking is a medium that is widely used to communicate remotely via the internet, and Twitter is a specific form of such activity. To understand the significance of Twitter as a social media, it is important to look at the history and statistics of its use globally.

Founded in 2006, Twitter is one of the world's leading social media platforms, with approximately one billion monthly visits and 313 million active users, of which 82% are mobile users [1]. Rodearni & Siagian [2] state that Twitter is used for communication through writing, images, and videos and provides freedom of expression for its users. Nurhadi [3] added that Twitter allows for quick delivery of information, supports self-existence, and establishes new relationships; users often share personal stories, opinions, and activities that can be responded to by followers and non-followers. He also emphasized that Twitter is a means of exchanging information that allows for social interaction. Based on the views of these experts, it can be concluded that Twitter as a social network facilitates communication and information dissemination, and becomes a potential space for observing locutionary, illocutionary, and perlocutionary speech acts in the delivery of

written messages. In the context of language use on Twitter, which is full of brief but meaningful expressions, there is a relevance to examine how these messages are conveyed through speech act theory.

Speech acts are an important concept in linguistics and pragmatics, referring to the way speech is used to achieve various social behaviors. In the context of Twitter, the study of speech behavior becomes even more interesting, given that users often need to convey messages briefly and clearly, taking into account the social and emotional context. Language use on Twitter is highly diverse, with users relying on abbreviations, emojis and hashtags to convey more complex meanings in a limited format. The limited number of characters encourages maximum linguistic creativity, resulting in different types of speech acts, ranging from informative statements to provocative comments. The unique nature of Twitter interactions also creates complexity in analyzing voice behavior. The retweet, reply and mention functionality allows users to interact directly with what others are saying, creating dynamic and sometimes controversial discussions. Given the importance of language in the communication system to prevent misunderstandings, the study of speech should be conducted. The study of speech acts is known as the study of pragmatics. To analyze speech acts more deeply, it is necessary to understand the branch of science that oversees it, namely pragmatics.

Pragmatics is a branch of linguistics that examines the use of language in a particular context. Levinson [4] states that pragmatics is concerned with the study of meaning that depends on the context of the situation. Pragmatics focuses on how the meaning of utterances can be understood not only based on linguistic structures, but also based on the interaction between speakers, listeners, and communicative situations. In other words, pragmatics is the study of what speakers mean by considering the context of the situation. In the study of pragmatics, one of the important aspects to be studied is speech acts. Pragmatics and speech acts view context as shared knowledge between speaker and listener, and that knowledge leads to the interpretation of an utterance. Certain knowledge and context can lead people to identify different types of speech acts. Experts have diverse views in defining speech acts, but all of them emphasize the importance of the intent and impact of utterances in communication. The opinions of the following experts enrich our understanding of the pragmatic dimension of communication.

Basically, pragmatics studies meanings that are influenced by things that are not directly related to language, but give relevance to certain situations. Therefore, pragmatics according to Leech in Jumanto [5], is the study of how speech has meaning in various situations. Speech that turns into utterances, words spoken by speakers, writers, or people who talk have meaning or intent in certain situations. According to Jumanto [5], pragmatics is a discipline that investigates the use of language in communication, especially the relationship between sentences and the contexts and situations used. Many relationships occur between sentences and contexts or situations used in communication. Just as Jumanto [5] said, pragmatics is the study of how language is used to achieve certain goals. Based on several opinions that refer to the main book, it can be concluded that pragmatics is a field of science that studies language by looking at the meaning of words and how they are used in communication. Before further discussing the types of speech acts, it is important to see how this concept developed from a descriptive to a functional approach.

Despite the growing number of studies on speech acts, most research in the Indonesian context has focused on formal domains, such as education, politics, or news media. Studies that specifically investigate locutionary acts in informal, youth-driven digital spaces like Twitter remain limited. While several researchers (e.g., Astri 2020 ; Rodearni & Siagian 2023) have analyzed speech acts on social media, they tend to emphasize illocutionary or perlocutionary acts and overlook the basic yet significant role of locution in meaning-making, especially in informal online interactions.

This study offers a unique perspective by focusing on the @Cursedkidd Twitter account, a popular and informal Indonesian account known for its humorous, sarcastic, and relatable content. The account reflects the linguistic creativity of Indonesian youth, blending regional languages, internet slang, and emotional expressivity. By analyzing the literal aspects of communication in this specific context, the study contributes to a deeper understanding of how young Indonesians construct meaning and negotiate identity through language in digital settings. This makes the present study relevant not only to pragmatic and discourse studies but also to digital sociolinguistics.

Astri [6] states that with regard to speech acts, every particular utterance or utterance contains certain intentions and purposes as well. Before the emergence of the concept of speech acts, linguists treated language as a description of a situation or fact [7]. This concept means that every statement is bound to what is called a truth condition. Understanding the concept of speech acts in Twitter social media as a tool for communication is very important to know the extent to which Twitter

social media users understand the concept of speech acts. In social media, it is certain that there will be differences of opinion among Twitter social media users. The difference arises because each individual has a different experience. Furthermore,

some experts explain speech acts as a linguistic action that is closely related to the context of communication.

Unindra [8] said that speech acts are speaking activities in the form of language sounds produced by speech organs and accompanied by gestures and facial expressions in accordance with the context and speech events that occur between speakers and speakers. Ismail [9] states that pragmatics studies the intent of speech; asks what someone means by a speech act; and relates meaning to who speaks to whom, where, when, how. The theory of speech acts in communication is built through the disclosure of information on events or facts that humans usually do in everyday life [10]. One of the early and important contributions in understanding speech acts came from Austin who divided them into three main types.

According to Kuntarto [11], speech acts consist of three types, namely acts of locution, acts of illocution, and acts of perlocution. All three not only express the meaning or intention of the speaker, but also have other impacts that can affect the interlocutor. Setyorini & Sari [12] said that the communication process can be said to be successful when the speech partner can understand the idea or intention spoken by the speaker. Speech acts have five functions, namely representative, directive, commissive, expressive, and declarative and each of these functions can be represented in each type of speech act [13]. Astri [6] said that speech acts are central in pragmatics, so they are more specialized in pragmatics. Speech acts are the basis for analyzing other pragmatic topics such as presumption, participation, conversational implicature, cooperation principles, and politeness principles. It can be concluded that speech act is an utterance that contains action as a functional in communication that considers aspects of the speech situation. To understand speech acts comprehensively, it is also necessary to consider the communicative functions proposed by Searle.

According to some opinions, speech acts are speech or utterances conveyed to speech partners (readers or listeners) with certain intentions, which are useful for humans to understand each other when communicating. Astri [6] divides speech acts into three, namely locution, illocution, and perlocution. Locutionary speech acts are meaningful utterances that can be understood literally. Rahardi [14] calls locution a speech act whose meaning is in accordance with the words, phrases, and sentences themselves. Rahardi [14] and Rusminto [15] emphasize that locution states something according to the facts, while Rustono [16] explains that locution follows the dictionary meaning and syntax rules. The focus of locution is the literal meaning of speech [6]. [17] emphasizes locution as the most basic type of speech act because it only conveys the actual meaning. [18] call it the act of "saying", without considering hidden intentions. In the study of pragmatics, one of the most basic but crucial types of speech acts to analyze is locutionary speech acts.

For example, the sentence "It is raining outside" only indicates that fact. [19] found that in digital communication, understanding literal meaning is crucial because often nonverbal context is not available, so misunderstandings often arise. This is also emphasized [20] that language learners need to understand literal meaning before getting into the nuances of cultural and social context. In discourse analysis, [21] states that locution helps identify core meaning before advanced interpretation, which is important in academic and journalistic contexts. [22] mention that AI systems such as NLP must understand locutionary meaning first to interpret more complex pragmatic meaning. [23] added that although locution focuses on literal meaning, its interpretation can differ between cultures, so cultural context remains important. Locution speech acts themselves can be categorized into several forms based on their structure and function in communication.

According to some theories, locutionary speech acts are types of speech acts that state something with the correct words, phrases, and sentences and provide information based on facts. Locutionary speech acts can be divided into five parts, namely: (1) Declarative, serves to convey information so that the listener pays attention, generally in the form of news sentences, can be true or false, and does not demand a direct response; (2) Interrogative, aims to ask something so that the listener provides an answer, characterized by an interrogative sentence structure, typical intonation, and the use of question marks and politeness; (3) Imperative, intended for the listener to perform a certain action, takes the form of a command sentence that uses action verbs and has an urgent tone; (4) Directive, aims to request or direct the listener's actions, uses words such as "please" or "must", and expects an immediate response; and (5) Expressive, aims to influence the listener's emotions or mental responses through a beautiful and suggestive language style, emphasizing more on evoking feelings than requesting actions. With this theoretical background, this research is directed to

examine how locutionary speech acts are present in real interactions, especially on the Twitter platform.

This study aims to analyze locutionary speech acts in Twitter social media, especially on the @Cursedkidd account, in order to explore how language is used to convey messages and understand its role in public communication. Locutionary speech acts refer to what is explicitly spoken or written by speakers, focusing on the literal meaning of the utterance. In the character-limited context of Twitter, an understanding of locution is essential to assess how users convey their information, opinions or feelings. Twitter allows for quick and direct interaction with diverse, symbolic and culturally contextualized language styles, so this analysis will identify and examine instances of locution in tweets, including the use of colloquialisms, jargon and slang common among users. In addition, the context of the tweets, whether related to social issues, politics, or entertainment, will be an important part of the analysis to see how users shape meaning, build identity, establish relationships, and influence actions through language. Using a pragmatics approach, particularly speech act theory, the analysis focuses not only on the text, but also on the social meaning constructed from the interaction.

II. Method

A. Research Design

This study adopts a qualitative-descriptive method with a pragmatic approach because the data involve context-sensitive, informal, and socially embedded utterances from Twitter interactions. A qualitative method is appropriate for analyzing naturally occurring discourse where meaning is constructed through context, social interaction, and linguistic style [24]. The descriptive approach allows the researchers to systematically interpret and describe types of locutionary speech acts based on their literal forms and communicative functions. The pragmatic framework enables the analysis to focus on the literal meaning (locution) in real-time digital communication, which is often marked by contextual subtleties and abbreviated expressions.

B. Data Collection

The primary data were collected from original tweets and replies from the Twitter account @Cursedkidd, spanning July to December 2024. The researchers employed *simak bebas libat cakap* and *simak catat* techniques, adapted for digital discourse, by reading, observing, and recording tweet interactions. A data observation sheet was used to log each tweet with contextual metadata (date, interaction type, tone, language style). Each utterance was coded manually based on its sentence type (declarative, interrogative, imperative, etc.) and classified into one of the five locutionary categories using an adapted coding scheme based on [14], [16], and [6]. This coding scheme included definitions, indicators, and examples for each locution type.

C. Data Analysis Procedure

The data analysis was conducted in several stages. First, researchers identified and compiled relevant utterances from @Cursedkidd using screenshot capture and manual transcription. Second, each utterance was segmented into units of analysis — a sentence, phrase, or clause representing a single communicative function. These were coded based on predefined locutionary speech act categories. The coding procedure followed an analytical framework combining [21] extra-lingual method with Bogdan's qualitative phases [25]. To ensure consistency, intercoder reliability was checked by comparing independent coding results among team members on 20% of the data set.

After the data is collected, the next stage is data analysis which is done by classifying the form and purpose of the utterances in the tweets of @cursedkidd account to identify the types of locutionary speech acts used.

III. Results and Discussion

To address the research objective of identifying and analyzing locutionary speech acts used on the Twitter account @Cursedkidd, this section presents the findings organized thematically by speech act type. Each subsection includes examples from the data, interpretation of their pragmatic functions, and analysis in relation to relevant theories and prior studies.

A. Directive Locutionary Acts

Directive locutionary acts were the most dominant, comprising 40% of the analyzed data. Searle (1976) defines directives as utterances intended to prompt the listener to perform an action. In the Twitter context, especially among Indonesian youth, directive expressions often manifest informally or implicitly, reflecting cultural nuances and linguistic creativity.



Fig. 1. Directive Locutionary Acts

One example is the tweet response: "karepmu wil" (Javanese for "it's up to you, Wil") as shown in Picture 1. While the locution is literal and seemingly neutral, its pragmatic force varies by tone and context. It can express indifference, sarcasm, or permission. According to Austin's (1962) theory, this reflects the locutionary level (literal expression) with a potentially divergent illocutionary force (e.g., dismissal, encouragement).

This style aligns with findings from [6], who observed that digital directives often use indirect speech and cultural codes. Unlike commands in formal contexts, these directives maintain social bonds while implying authority or suggestion.

B. Declarative Locutionary Acts



Fig. 2. Declarative Locutionary Acts

Declaratives constituted 32% of the speech data. Declarative acts aim to provide information or statements that can be true or false [5]. An example is the utterance: "nga tau, emg luw brhrap apa wil dr 7500?? Nasi padang aja less," as illustrated in Picture 2. This utterance states an opinion about the inadequacy of 7500 Rupiah, comparing it to the price of a Padang rice meal.

Here, the locutionary content conveys an evaluative stance using casual, abbreviated language. The pragmatic function aligns with Searle's representative category, though the informal register reflects youth digital communication norms. This example also demonstrates language economy and sarcasm, common in social media commentary [20].

C. Interrogative Locutionary Acts



Fig. 3. Interrogative Locutionary Acts

Interrogatives appeared in 10% of the data. These acts seek information through questions. An example is the tweet: “emang mancing ikan bs ngilangin stress yh?” (does fishing really relieve stress?), shown in Picture 3.

Literally, this is a yes-no question. From a pragmatic standpoint, the tweet invites shared reflection and possible affirmation. As [26] notes, even questions carry performative intent when framed in social discourse. The question may be rhetorical or genuine, but it fosters engagement and topical relevance.

[4] emphasizes that question forms often function beyond information-seeking; they can mark stance, build rapport, or prompt humor. This is evident in casual digital environments, distinguishing them from structured academic or institutional discourse.

D. Imperative Locutionary Acts

Imperatives also comprised 10% of the sample and involved direct commands or instructions. For instance: “try wil,” a short command suggesting someone named Wil should try fishing, as seen in Picture 4.



Fig. 4. Imperative Locutionary Acts

This utterance represents a clear imperative structure with a directive function. In Austin’s framework, the locution (“Try”) explicitly conveys an intended action, while the illocutionary force is a suggestion or encouragement. The simplicity and directness reflect Twitter’s preference for brevity.

This finding supports [13] claim that digital imperative locutions are often softened by context, tone, or social familiarity. Compared to offline discourse, online directives are more contextual and dependent on shared understanding among users.

E. Expressive Locutionary Acts

Expressive acts were the least frequent, comprising 8% of the data. These express psychological states or emotional reactions. One example is the utterance: “WAWW The solution is right beyond human limits,” presented in Picture 5.

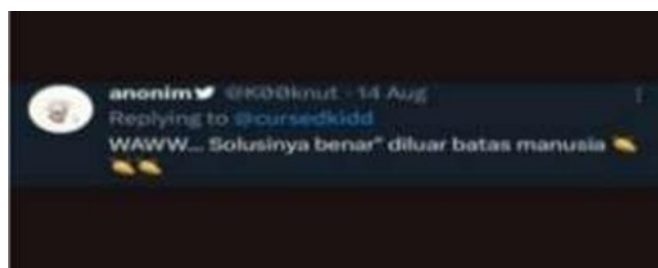


Fig. 5. Expressive Locutionary Acts

While structurally declarative, the utterance functions as an expressive act. The interjection “WAWW” signals surprise or amazement, while the evaluative statement enhances the emotional tone. This supports [17] and [23] assertion that expressives often coexist with declaratives, especially in online contexts.

The expressive style here relies on hyperbole and dramatic flair, reflecting youth humor and exaggeration in digital communication. Compared to formal expressions of emotion in previous studies, this highlights how emotional expression on Twitter is both creative and condensed.

IV. Conclusion

Based on the research on locutionary speech acts on @cursedkidd Twitter account, it is found that the dominant type of speech act is directive speech act, which is often used to give advice, orders, requests, and invitations. In addition, there are also interrogative, imperative, declarative, and expressive speech acts, each of which has different pragmatic functions such as providing information, asking for clarification, conveying opinions, and expressing emotions. Overall, the analysis shows that communication on the account tends to be informal, with the use of mixed language, abbreviations, emoticons, and nonstandard sentence structures. The communication context shows an intimate and relaxed relationship between users, with multi-directional interaction patterns and topics around daily life. The use of humor, satire and emotional expressions reflects that social media such as Twitter is not only a space for sharing information, but also building social relationships and creating a fluid conversational atmosphere. This shows the complexity and flexibility of language in digital interactions that are influenced by informal contexts and diverse pragmatic goals.

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